

# Volunteer Newsletter

## Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge

Photo by Brendan Blowers De León



November 2016

The new Monarch Station at Creepy Critter Encounters!

### **Don't Miss These Volunteer Opportunities** *Volunteers especially needed for:*

**Visitor Center Host**—*Saturdays 10-4pm (or weekdays)*. Greet and provide information to visitors.

**Sagebrush Seed Collection** (Dec 3)—Collect seeds for a habitat restoration project.

**Visitor Counting** (6 mornings throughout month)—Long-term commitment to count Refuge visitors.

*See next page for more information.*

### **What's New?**

Several birders spotted a juvenile Surf Scoter at the Lower Dam on October 22nd. This pelagic waterfowl is a Refuge "lifer" and will be the newest addition to our bird list! The black-and-white pattern on this diving duck's head gave the species the nickname of "skunk-head coot."

### **Cheers!**

Thank you to the CWI Biology Club and all the monarch monitors volunteers that did surveys this year and to CWI for their captive rearing project. The staff and visitors have enjoyed seeing tagged monarchs released at the Refuge.

For her senior project, Ileana from Caldwell High School took the lead in developing a new monarch butterfly station for our Creepy Critters line-up! Thanks also to Victoria for helping plan and to Victoria and Vance for sharing at the event



*Final tagged Monarch of the season  
(Pro Image Photography—Robert Allen)*

why Monarchs are celebrated during Dia de los Muertos. A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, partners, and sponsor Friends of Deer Flat that helped make Creepy Critter Encounters possible! We had over 500 people attend and saw only smiling faces during this fun annual event.

### **Around the Water Cooler**

For those of you that like to be along the water's edge, we are happy to report that the blue-green algae health alert has been lifted. (Still don't drink the water, though!)

### **Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge**

The Friends of Deer Flat is a non-profit organization that supports Refuge activities. Friends memberships start at \$10 and are tax deductible.



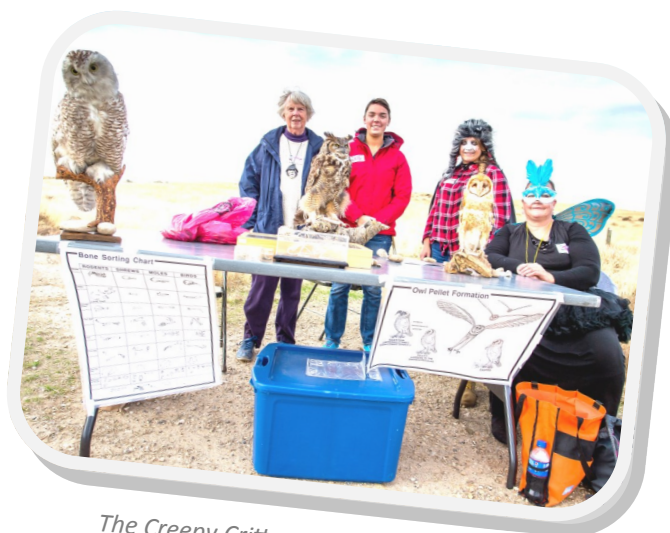
## Upcoming Events

*Unless otherwise stated, events take place at the Visitor Center.*

**Reading at the Refuge**—Nov 7 & 21, 10a and 2p. Preschoolers are invited to a wildlife-focused story time.

**SIBA General Meeting**—Nov 11, 6pm. Join the Birders Association for their monthly meeting and a presentation.

**Nampa Christmas Bird Count**—Dec 17. Starts at the Visitor Center For more information, check facebook.com/SWIdahoBirders.



*The Creepy Critters owl station volunteers!  
(Photo Courtesy of Pro Image Photography-Robert Allen)*

## Don't-Miss Volunteer Opportunities!

*Think you might not have the skills needed to help? Don't worry! Training is provided.*

**Visitor Center Host**—Saturdays 10-4pm (or weekdays). Do you like wildlife and people? Then visitor center hosting may be for you. Greet visitors, answer the phone, and help with various office projects. Saturday hosts must be willing to undergo a background check and commit to a year of service—whether once a month or once a quarter. *Maybe interested but have questions? Please ask!*

**Sagebrush Seed Collectors**—Dec 3, 1pm. 10 volunteers are needed to harvest sagebrush seeds for two hours for this Friends' habitat restoration event. Please contact Melissa to sign up and if you have any questions.

**Visitor Counting Surveyor**—2 hours in the morning (8a -noon), 6 times per month (4 weekdays and 2 weekends). Help count Refuge visitors by driving around the Refuge in a Refuge vehicle to count the vehicles at each Refuge access point and fill brochure boxes. Data used to estimate total Refuge visitation.

## Other Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

**Reading at the Refuge** — 1st & 3rd Mondays (10 am and 2 pm) Help connect youngsters to nature. Volunteers select and acquire wildlife stories, prepare crafts, and lead the event.

**Vehicle Maintenance**—*Flexible, monthly.* Check refuge vehicles to make sure they are well-maintained. *No need to be a car expert!*

**Idaho Master Naturalist Program**—Do you love learning about the natural world? Please let us know if you would like us to start a new local chapter based here at Deer Flat!



*Collecting sagebrush seed.  
(Photo USFWS/Susan Kain)*

To sign up or find out more, contact Melissa Murillo at [melissa\\_murillo@fws.gov](mailto:melissa_murillo@fws.gov) (208) 467-9278